

chose an unusual mode of transportation. Gary and Jackson both rollerbladed across the country, while Jessica biked along side them.

From August 13th to September 7th, Gary and Jackson woke up and strapped on their trusty rollerblades, Jessica hopped on her bike and together, they embarked on this heartwarming adventure. They were sore; they were tired; but they were not discouraged by challenges. For the past 7 years, in fact, Gary has put himself through some rigorous challenges to raise awareness for Kinship Partners, including walking the length of Minnesota, biking to New Orleans and camping out on the Brainerd, Minnesota water tower for more than a week. It is his unwavering dedication to Kinship Partners that has helped raise over 100,000 dollars and kept the program strong.

Kinship is a mentoring program in north-central Minnesota that matches children with caring adults based on mutual interests. For a few hours a week, they get together and spend time doing whatever it is they like. It's not a complicated formula, but it is a somewhat new take on mentoring programs. And Kinship Partners is seeing success stories in 24 Minnesota communities as a result of their back-to-basics strategy. In fact, there is even a waiting list. When children know that there is someone who is absolutely crazy about them and committed to their well-being, there are no limits to their success.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

With the struggling economy, rising cost of tuition, and decrease in the availability of student aid, working families are finding it increasingly difficult to send their children to college. In order to ensure that America is able to compete in the global economy and remain a leader in the innovative industries of the future, this historic legislation invests in our economic future by making college more affordable and accessible. By reforming our student loan system, simplifying the student loan application process, investing in community colleges to create a highly skilled workforce, and strengthening early childhood education programs we will guarantee that the next generation is equipped with the necessary skills to compete worldwide.

In a fiscally responsible way, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will make college more affordable and accessible by transforming our student aid system. The reforms will make student loans more reliable and accessible for a greater number of students. Pell Grant Scholarships will receive an additional \$40 billion over the next 10 years, \$500 million of that will go to students in Wis-

consin. In 2019, it is estimated that 20,000 western Wisconsin students will be awarded \$75 million in Pell Grants. The bill also simplifies the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by allowing families to fill out the application with information from just a tax return to prove eligibility.

This legislation also invests heavily in community colleges to cultivate a highly skilled workforce to compete in the global economy. It will encourage and support relationships between community colleges, businesses, states and adult education programs. These partnerships are already occurring in western Wisconsin and with additional grants and investment, our community colleges will be able to strengthen and build upon these partnerships, creating additional jobs and economic development.

Not only will the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act do a better job getting kids to college, it will also provide assistance to ensure that they make it to graduation. Investing in college access and completion support programs will ensure that students receive guidance to ensure they make it to graduation. Further, secondary schools in western Wisconsin will receive \$57 million for school renovation to improve the classroom experience and enhance learning for students.

Ensuring that children are put on a path toward academic success begins at an early age. I have always believed that we must place an emphasis on early childhood education in order to prepare students to excel once they begin in school. I have long supported and advocated for legislation that would strengthen early childhood education by providing states with grant opportunities, increased funding, and better training for educators. In previous years, I have introduced legislation that would have accomplished many of the same goals of this bill by creating an Early Learning Challenge Fund to award competitive grants to states that implement early education reforms. This provision is crucial as we work to provide learning and development opportunities to children at an early age, ensuring that kids are ready for success once they enter the school system.

As the country continues to work through some of the most difficult economic conditions in a generation, it is imperative that we increase our investment in education. Innovation and a highly skilled workforce are keys to unlocking the future potential of America. If we are truly going to compete against emerging nations like China and India, we must continue to invest in our education system.

I am proud to represent western Wisconsin, which is home to six universities and dozens of community and technical colleges. With such an emphasis on higher education, we have long been working to become a leader in producing workers for the 21st Century's global economy. This historic legislation will build on the infrastructure already available in western Wisconsin and make higher education more affordable and accessible for everyone.

IN MEMORY OF DR. M. DELMAR
EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who I am proud to have called a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration: Dr. M. Delmar Edwards of Columbus, Georgia. Dr. Edwards was the first African-American to practice surgery in the city of Columbus and was one who blazed new trails for those who would follow him. On September 11, 2009, he passed away at the age of 83.

Dr. Edwards was born on December 19, 1926, in the state of Arkansas. He attended Morehouse College and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, in 1948. He received a master's degree from Atlanta University in 1952 and, in 1957, became the fifth black person to graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School.

In 1964 he moved to Columbus and started his practice on the corner of Fourth Avenue, now Veterans Parkway, and Eighth Street. He eventually led the general surgery section at the Medical Center and served as chairman of the department of surgery. Later, he trained to be a surgeon at the Residency Training Program in General Surgery at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Edwards was a founding trustee of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, where a scholarship program was eventually named in his honor and has helped dozens of bright, young, aspiring physicians to achieve their goals of becoming a doctor.

In addition to his esteemed medical career, Dr. Edwards found the time to become a mentor to scores of African-American physicians in Columbus and was a driving force behind their decisions to stay and practice within the community. He was also a devoted community leader, becoming the first African-American to serve on the Columbus Housing Authority Board and the second on the Muscogee County School Board.

Madam Speaker, Dr. M. Delmar Edwards served the people of Columbus with honor, respect, and integrity. His lifetime of altruistic care-giving has made him a legend in our community and an inspirational figure for us all. I consider it a privilege to honor his life today and his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others. He will be missed.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11,
2001

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today on the eighth anniversary of September 11, 2001, we honor the memory of the victims, extend our thoughts and prayers to the victims' families, and recognize the heroism and courage displayed during rescue and recovery

missions. It is a day none of us will ever forget.

Our response to the attacks of September 11, 2001 will define the meaning of that terrible day, and it will define us as a country. While we remain focused on preserving America's security, we must be equally resolute in our commitment to protect the values and character that define America.

The legacy of September 11, 2001 will not be destruction, but instead a spirit of service that will strengthen our nation for generations to come. For this reason, the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 718, which calls on all Americans to observe September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance in honor of those who were injured or lost their lives and in tribute to those who came to the aid of those in need. This resolution also challenges all Americans to continue to live with the same spirit of unity, service, and compassion that was exhibited following the attacks.

As we continue to mourn the victims of that awful tragedy eight years ago, I encourage all Americans to volunteer to serve their communities today and throughout the year.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY ANTI-TRUST ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act of 2009. Both the House and Senate today have introduced identical language to reduce insurance prices for consumers. I want to thank my friend Senator LEAHY for his leadership on the bill and for working with the House on this joint introduction.

I am joined in my efforts on the House side by the honorable Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, Representative HANK JOHNSON of Georgia, and Representative DIANA DEGETTE of Colorado.

The purpose of this bill is to extend antitrust enforcement over health insurers and medical malpractice insurance issuers, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity under the McCarran-Ferguson Act. This immunity can serve as a shield for activities that might otherwise violate federal law.

This bill would specifically prohibit price fixing, bid rigging, and market allocation, pernicious practices that are detrimental to competition and result in higher prices for consumers.

The House Judiciary Committee held extensive hearings on the effects of the insurance industry's antitrust exemption throughout the 1980s and early 1990s. It became clear that policyholders and the economy in general would benefit from eliminating this exemption.

The bill I introduce today is intended to root out unlawful activity in an industry grown complacent by decades of protection from antitrust oversight. In doing so, we aim to make health insurance more affordable to more Americans.

SHEPHERDSTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Shepherdstown Fire Department, for over 200 years of service by trained volunteers.

As the oldest fire department in Jefferson County, West Virginia, Shepherdstown Fire Department has been a staple of the area for over two centuries. As early as 1793, when Shepherdstown was known as Mecklenburg, the town passed a tax levy to secure money with the purpose of purchasing a fire engine. In 1804, a year after the engine was purchased, the department's first fire house was built. Devoted firefighters have selflessly given their services to the community and have been shown tremendous support in return from their neighbors.

On Saturday, September 12, 2009, Shepherdstown Fire Department held a day long celebration for the public to enjoy. The department hosted several events commemorating this milestone. The events included the final placement of the department's original 1894 fire bell and a rededication of the fire department.

It is an honor to recognize the Shepherdstown Fire Department. Reaching the 200-year mark is an impressive accomplishment. It says wonderful things about West Virginia to have people like these volunteer firefighters.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Chair, I rise to express my support for H.R. 3221, and to express my gratitude to Chairman MILLER for including in this bill a very important section to close gaps in college degree attainment and completion.

Section 783 of the bill, which provides for innovation in college access and completion national activities, authorizes the Secretary of Education to award grants to innovative programs that improve student outcomes for college bound students.

In 2007, only 27.8 percent of college freshmen, or roughly one-fourth, went on to complete their degrees. In the highly competitive 21st century, America can little afford to fall behind in the technology curve; today, China graduates eight times as many engineering students as us, and India five times more.

We have an abundance of bright students in this country, and by increasing the number of individuals with postsecondary degrees, any expenditure we make towards that end will be returned many times over as these graduates enter the work force and start contributing to

what is already the world's largest and most advanced economy.

In June, I introduced H.R. 3259, to establish grants for college success and completion. My bill, coauthored with Representative REICHERT, would encourage and help students from low-income and disadvantaged families attend college. This group of Americans represents the last great untapped source of American brainpower, as only 6 percent of them are expected to earn a bachelor's degree by age 24—seven and a half times smaller than the expected graduation rates of students from wealthy backgrounds.

I urge passage of H.R. 3221, and encourage my colleagues to continue investing in America's future by cosponsoring H.R. 3259.

RECOGNIZING FORTY & EIGHT, HOMOSASSA, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Forty & Eight organization. Throughout our Nation's history, we have turned time and again to our men and women in uniform; calling on them to preserve our freedom and uphold our democratic values. Time and again they have heeded the call and protected our Nation with honor and valor.

More than a million of our brave men and women have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Joining the ranks of these heroes are the thousands who have been held as prisoners of war or whose fate has never been resolved. This loss was all the more difficult for their loved ones because it has never been determined whether they perished or survived.

However, their loved ones can take solace in knowing that their sacrifice was for a purpose, one that they were prepared to make. As President Reagan said on the 40th anniversary of D-Day, "You all knew that . . . one's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for . . . all of you loved liberty. All of you were willing to fight tyranny, and you knew the people of your countries were behind you".

Military families are the first line of support for our service men and women. They provide them the courage they need to march on in battle; and they fight for their legacy long after the battle has been won.

Organizations like Forty & Eight are part of the military family. Since 1920 they have worked tirelessly to insure that the legacies of our service members endure alongside the freedom that they fought so selflessly to defend.

On September 19th, Forty & Eight will come together in Citrus County to award a scholarship to the dependent of a known and verified POW or MIA. The scholarship is named in memory of Lance Corporal John Dewey Killen III, USMC. Lance Corporal Killen was declared missing in action while serving with the Third Reconnaissance Battalion in South Vietnam.

This scholarship is just one example of Forty & Eight's commitment to our veterans, both those who are still with us, those who have gone before us and those whose fate is still yet unknown.